

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 IO-12 NIC-01 RSR-01

/113 W

----- 030427

O R 251500 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4067

INFO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0486

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CT

SUBJECT: BOKASSA CONGRATULATES NGOUABI, NOTES OWN INTERNAL
PROBLEMS

REF: BANGUI 426, 476

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BOKASSA PUBLICLY CONGRATULATED
PRESIDENT NGOUABI ON SLAYING OF REBEL DIAWARA APRIL 24. HE
LASHED OUT AGAINST " COLONIALIST" AND " IMPERIALIST" JOURNALISTS
AND THEIR " VALETS" AND SAID " WE SOCIALISTS" WILL TRIUMPH OVER
FORMER. IN ACCOMPANYING SANGO- LANGUAGE BROADCAST HE ALSO
DISCUSSED M' BONGO INCIDENT AND RAILED AGAINST UNSPECIFIED
FOREIGNERS WHO URGE SUCH PEOPLE ON. ACTION REQUESTED: NONE.

2. IN APRIL 24 BOKASSA BROADCAST MESSAGE TO CONGOLESE
PRESIDENT NGOUABI CONGRATULATING HIM ON SLAYING OF REBEL
LEADER DIAWARA, AS REPORTED BY AFP. HE SAID HE REJOICED AT
NEWS AND THAT NGOUABI HAD PROVED HIS COURAGE AS AFRICAN
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SOLDIER ALONG SIDE HIS " OLDER BROTHER" BOKASSA. BOKASSA HOPED OTHER PLOTTERS HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA WOULD TAKE HEED. HE THEN ATTACKED JOURNALISTS FOR LYING ABOUT HIM AND SAID SUCH " COLONIALISTS" AND " IMPERIALIST" JOURNALISTS AND THEIR " VALETS" CONSTITUTED THE REAL TRAITORS IN AFRICA. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT " WE SOCIALISTS WILL TRIUMPH BY RAISING THE FLAG OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM OVER COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM, ALREADY VANQUISHED DESPITE THE POWER OF THEIR ARMS," AND BY DECLARING " LONG LIVE" THE OUA, THE ORGANIZATION OF NON- ALIGNED COUNTRIES, AND THE UN."

3. BOKASSA MADE ACCOMPANYING SANGO- LANGUAGE BROADCAST. WE DO NOT YET HAVE TEXT, BUT UNDERSTAND HE NOTED DIAWARA INCIDENT AND THEN WENT ON TO MENTION M' BONGO AFFAIR. HE SAID THERE ARE FOREIGNERS IN CAR WHO CLAIM TO BE FRIENDS BUT WHO DECEIVE SOME OF OUR " CHILDREN" (I. E. CENTRAL AFRICANS) INTO REBELLING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. HE STATED HE KNOWS WHO THESE " CHILDREN" AND THESE FOREIGNERS ARE, THOUGH HE WOULD NOT GIVE THEIR NAMES BUT WOULD REMEMBER THEM IN HIS HEART. HE CAUTIONED SOLDIERS AND POLICE NOT TO LISTEN TO THOSE WHO TELL THEM TO REPLACE BOKASSA. HE THEN CITED AS EXAMPLE (FORMER COLONEL) BANZA, " WHO IS NOW DEAD," AND M' BONGO' S ROLE IN EXPOSING HIM. BOKASSA SAID NOW M' BONGO HAD TRIED TO DENOUNCE GENERAL MANDABA (CURRENT VICE CHIEF OF STAFF), BUT M' BONGO HIMSELF HAD BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE " CHILDREN" AGAINST BOKASSA. LATTER ALSO NOTED M' BONGO' S WIFE FACED ARREST.

4. MESSAGE AND SPEECH HAVE ALREADY BEEN REBROADCAST DURING SEVERAL REGULAR NEWSCASTS.

5. COMMENT: TONE OF BOTH MESSAGES AND SPEECH WAS QUITE SHARP. THIS IS SECOND TIME IN THREE DAYS THAT BOKASSA HAS LASHED OUT AT " COLONIALISTS" AND " IMPERIALISTS" AND THEIR " VALETS", AND FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD HIM PROCLAIM HIMSELF " SOCIALIST" AND PRAISE " BANNER OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM," AT LEAST IN THESE TERMS. HE HAS NOT YET DIRECTED HIS IRE TOWARD ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY, BUT IT IS FAIRLY CLEAR HE IS FOCUSING ON THE WEST AND EXCLUDING SOVIET BLOC FROM HIS ANGER.

6. FIRST TIME ALSO THAT BOKASSA HAS PUBLICLY MENTIONED M' BONGO AS CULPRIT IN " PLOT" AGAINST HIM (REFTELS). BOKASSA
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SEEMS TO BE AIRING AFFAIR IN STRONG TERMS TO CONVINCE, PERHAPS EVEN FRIGHTEN, PEOPLE TO RALLY BEHIND HIM, POSSIBLY TO ASSURE THINGS ARE IN HAND WHEN HE DEPARTS NEXT WEEK FOR MAURITIUS. THERE IS NO INDICATION HE IS NOT FULLY IN CONTROL, BUT M' BONGO AFFAIR MAY HAVE SHAKEN HIM SOMEWHAT AND EVIDENTLY GOES FAIRLY DEEP. IT MIGHT GET MORE SERIOUS IF M' BONGO IS EXECUTED AS BOKASSA REPORTEDLY IMPLIED IN HIS SANGO SPEECH. (M' BONGO

HAS BEEN LONG- TIME CLOSE COLLEAGUE AND COLLABORATOR OF BOKASSA
AND IS FROM SAME TRIBE, MEMBERS OF WHICH CONTROL KEY POSITIONS
IN GOVT AND MILITARY.)

7. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE REMAINS QUITE CALM AND NORMAL, AT
LEAST OUTWARDLY. NO SPECIAL SECURITY OR OTHER PRECAUTIONS
NOTED BEING TAKEN.

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